

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05

FDRE-00 SCA-01 VO-03 INSE-00 EA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00 /097 W

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R 291250Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4781

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT MINISTER SAYS SWEDEN WILL NOT TAKE INITIATIVE
IN BRINGING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO SWEDEN

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 2059

(B) STOCKHOLM 2114 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT MAY 23,
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO ANNA GRETA LEIJON STATED
THAT THE GOS WILL NOT TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN BRINGING
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES COLLECTIVELY TO SWEDEN. HOWEVER,
THE MINISTER ADDED THAT SHOULD SUCH REFUGEES ARRIVE IN
SWEDEN IN SOME OTHER WAY, THE RIGHT TO ASYLUM WOULD BE
CONSIDERED BY THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE IN THE USUAL WAY,
AS IN THE CASE OF THE 22 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO
ARRIVED IN SWEDEN MAY 20 (REF A).

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2. THE QUESTION RE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES HAD BEEN POSED
BY MODERATE M.P. TAGE ADOLFSSON, WHO EXPRESSED DISAPPOINT-
MENT AT MRS. LEIJON'S REPLY. ADOLFSSON POINTED OUT THAT
IN ASSUMING THE ATTITUDE SET FORTH BY MRS. LEIJON,

SWEDEN WAS "NOT UPHOLDING ITS TRADITIONS IN WELCOMING REFUGEES." ADOLFSSON ALSO CRITICIZED THE STATEMENT OF LEFTWING SOCIAL DEMOCRAT BRIGITTA DAHL (A LEADER OF THE SWEDISH FNL LOBBY) WHO HAD URGED THAT THE 22 REFUGEES WHO HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED IN SWEDEN BE RETURNED TO VIETNAM. ADOLFSSON TERMED MRS. DAHL'S STATEMENT "CYNICAL" ADDING THAT WHILE LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM SINCE THE COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER, THE REPORTS ABOUT THE VIOLENCE IN CAMBODIA AND THE KNOWLEDGE THAT 50,000 PEOPLE WERE EXECUTED IN NORTH VIETNAM AFTER THE COMMUNISTS TOOK POWER THERE SUGGESTS THAT THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM "WILL PROBABLY FOLLOW THE SAME PATTERN."

3. MRS. LEIJON REPLIED THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM IS SIMILAR TO THAT EXISTING IN CHILE. SHE ALSO USED THE OCCASION TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS AUTHORIZED THE ADMISSION OF AN ADDITIONAL 50 REFUGEES FROM LATIN AMERICA TO SWEDEN AND WILL PAY THE TRAVEL EXPENSES TO SWEDEN OF SOME 50 RELATIVES OF LATIN AMERICAN REFUGEES ALREADY IN SWEDEN. MRS. LEIJON ADDED THAT THERE ARE NOT A TOTAL OF 1,600 REFUGEES FROM LATIN AMERICA IN SWEDEN.

4. COMMENT: THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE GOS TO FACILITATE THE ENTRY TO SWEDEN OF REFUGEES FROM CHILE AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA CONTRAST SHARPLY WITH ITS CAUTIOUS APPROACH TOWARDS THE QUESTION OF COLLECTIVE ASYLUM FOR REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA AND ILLUSTRATES THE LONG-ESTABLISHED "DOUBLE STANDARD" HERE IN ATTITUDES TOWARDS LEFT AND RIGHT WING AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES. WHILE IT IS LIKELY THAT THE GOS WILL EVENTUALLY GRANT ASYLUM TO THE 22 REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM ALREADY HERE, IT OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT WITH TO ENCOURAGE EFFORTS TO BRING TO SWEDEN ADDITIONAL REFUGEES FROM THAT COUNTRY.

5. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE STOCKHOLM DAILY DAGENS
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NYHETER, A PERSISTENT CRITIC OF U.S. INDOCHINA POLICY, IS AN EDITORIAL MAY 23 DECLARED THAT IF IT WERE DETERMINED THAT "REAL" PERSECUTION IS TAKING PLACE IN VIETNAM, "THEN IT WOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SWEDEN'S TRADITION TO ARRANGE THE DIRECT TRANSFER HERE OF REFUGES." THE PAPER ADDED THAT THE 22 REFUGEES ALREADY HERE SHOULD DEFINITELY BE GRANTED ASYLUM. DAGENS NYHETER'S POSITION REFLECTS THE DILEMMA WHICH WILL FACE MANY SWEDES IF THE LONG-SOUGHT VICTORY OF THE COMMUNIST FORCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM NOW DEVELOPS INTO WIDE-SCALE PERSECUTION. IF THIS OCCURS, THE PREVAILING VIEW THAT THE COMMUNIST FORCES WERE "LIBERATING" THE SOUTH FROM A TYRANNICAL GOVERNMENT WILL BE SUBJECT TO SEVERE STRAIN. STRAUZ-HUPE

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